

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USUN N 00192 220222Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----103687 220233Z /64

O 220156Z JAN 78

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9162
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIAE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIAE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 192

EXDIS

FOR SECRETARIES MOOSE AND MAYNES FROM AMB MCHENRY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA, UK
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: PRESS LEAKS

1. IT IS INCREASINGLY CLEAR FROM SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS STORIES THAT SOMEONE AMONG THE FIVE PRETORIA EMBASSIES HAS DEVELOPED A COMPULSION FOR PREMATURE, SOMETIMES INACCURATE AND FREQUENTLY MALICIOUS PROVISION TO THE PRESS OF INFORMATION ON CONTACT GROUP DELIBERATIONS. WE SAY MALICIOUS BECAUSE OF THE SLANT WHICH THE STORIES TEND TO TAKE. AN EFFORT IS MADE TO IDENTIFY THE US WITH SWAPO AND TO MAKE US RESPONSIBLE FOR FAILURE. NO DOUBT SOME OF THIS CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO BOTH WHO SOUTH AFRICAN CORRESPONDENTS SAY IS TAKING THIS LINE IN PRESS BACK-FOUNDERS. HOWEVER, THE LEVEL OF FACTUAL ACCURACY IN THIS STORIES STRONGLY INDICATES THAT THE SOURCE IS ONE OF THE FIVE OR THAT THE SECURITY OF OUR DELIBERATIONS HAS BEEN BREACHED. EITHER WAY, IT IS A MATTER OF SERIOUS CONCERN.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USUN N 00192 220222Z

2. MEDIA DIPLOMACY HAS ITS USE. HOWEVER, IN THIS INSTANCE WE DOUBT THE VALUE AND SEE POTENTIALLY SUBSTANTIAL HARM TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY LURE SA AND THOSE WHO WISH TO AVOID MEASURES

AGAINST SA INTO THINKING THAT ONE OF THE FIVE OR A PERSONALITY STANDS BETWEEN AGREEMENT AND IMPASSE. I HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED MY DISMAY TO MEMBERS OF THE CONTACT GROUP HERE. DEPARTMENT

MAY WISH ON URGENT BASIS TO INSTRUCT EMBASSIES IN CONTACT
GROUP CAPITALS TO EXPRESS AT HIGHEST APPROPRIATE LEVEL OUR CONCERN
AT FACT OF AND UNHELPFUL SLANT OF MEDIA LEAKS. SINCE IT IS
CLEAR THAT BOTHA IS PART OF THE ACT, AMB BOWDLER MIGHT BE
INSTRUCTED TO URGE BOTHA TO PUT AN END TO HIS OWN DISTORTIONS
AND LEAKS. THIS WILL BE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IN THE HANDLING
OF THE NAMIBIA PROPOSALS.

3. WHILE I'M AT IT, I SHOULD ALSO ADD MY BELIEF THAT THE
EVIDENCE MOUNTS THAT THE BRITISH HAVE NOT BEEN COMPLETELY
CANDID WITH US ABOUT THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH SA, PERHAPS MOST
PARTICULARLY REGARDING DISCUSSIONS WITH FOURIE IN LONDON LAST
MONTH. SIR DAVID SCOTT'S DISCLOSURE TO BOTHA ABOUT OUR PLANS
FOR A MINISTERIAL MEETING (SIGNIFICANTLY CITED IN THE MEDIA
AS A UK-FRENCH INITIATIVE) WAS CERTAINLY NOT AUTHORIZED. WHAT ELSE
DID HE SAY?
YOUNG

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEWS LEAKS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN00192
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780033-0323
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780136/aaaabeed.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c50725e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3733628
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: PRESS LEAKS
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c50725e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014